CLAIMS

We claim as our invention:

1.   A program product comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code stored therein, the computer readable program code in said program product being effective when executing to:

accept personality selection input provided by a user to the computer which has a storage device adapted to store various data files and to assume a selected personality in the computer based on the provided input;

tag files to be stored in the storage device according to the selected personality; and

implement a filter which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality and removes the tags applied by the code which is effective to tag files and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

2.   The product of Claim 1 wherein the code which is effective to accept personality selection input is independent of user login identity information.

3.   The product of Claim 1 wherein the code which is effective to accept personality selection input accepts the input as a function of user login identity information.

4.   The product of Claim 1 wherein the code which is effective to tag files is code which appends characters to the data file name.

16

5.   A program product comprising:

a computer useable medium having computer readable program code stored therein, the computer readable program code in said program product being effective when executing to:

accept and authenticate input provided by a user selected from a plurality of personality selection inputs to a computer which has a storage device adapted to store various data files and assume a selected personality in the computer based on the provided input;

tag files to be stored in the storage device according to the selected personality wherein the contents of the tagged files are stored in an encrypted format on the storage device; and

implement a filter which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality and removes the tags applied by the code which is effective to tag files and decrypts the contents of tagged files which have been stored in an encrypted format on the storage device and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality;

wherein, when at least one application is executed in the computer, a change in the selected personality based on newly provided input does not require termination of the at least one application.

6.   The product of Claim 5 wherein the code which implements the filter further passes files tagged as universal irrespective of the selected personality and thereby overrides the filter action (b) which otherwise blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

7.   The product of Claim 6 wherein the code which implements the filter additionally passes all files when the selected personality is a universal personality and thereby further overrides the filter action (b) which otherwise blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

8.   The product of Claim 5 wherein a call to a cryptographic processor is made in a selected one of the authentication performed by the code which accepts and authenticates, the encryption performed by the code which implements the filter, and the decryption performed the code which implements the filter.

9.   The product of Claim 8 wherein the cryptographic processor called is a trusted platform module.

10.   The product of Claim 5 wherein the code which accepts and authenticates is code which is independent of user login identity information.

11.   The product of Claim 5 wherein the personality selection performed by the code which accepts and authenticates is a function of user login identity information.

12.   The product of Claim 5 wherein the code which is effective to tag files is code which appends characters to the data file name.

13.   A method comprising the steps of:

accepting personality selection input provided by a user to a computer which has a storage device adapted to store various data files and assuming a selected personality in the computer based on the provided input;

tagging files to be stored in the storage device according to the selected personality; and

implementing a filter which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality and removes the tagging applied in said tagging step and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the accepting step is independent of user login identity information.

15. The method of Claim 13 wherein the accepting step accepts personality selection input as a function of user login identity information.

16. The method of Claim 13 wherein said tagging is one which appends characters to the data file name.

17. A method comprising the steps of:

accepting and authenticating input provided by a user selected from a plurality of personality selection inputs to a computer which has a storage device adapted to store various data files and assuming a selected personality in the computer based on the provided input;

tagging files to be stored in the storage device according to the selected personality wherein the contents of the tagged files are stored in an encrypted format on the storage device; and

implementing a filter which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality and removes the tagging applied in said tagging step and decrypts the contents of tagged files which have been stored in an encrypted format on the storage device and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality;

wherein, when at least one application is running in the computer, a change in the selected personality based on newly provided input does not require termination of the at least one application.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the filter implemented in said implementing step further passes files tagged as universal irrespective of the selected personality and thereby overrides the filter action (b) which otherwise blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the filter implemented in said implementing step additionally passes all files when the selected personality is a universal personality and thereby further overrides the filter action (b) which otherwise blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

20.   The method of Claim 17 wherein a cryptographic processor is utilized in a selected one of the authentication performed in said accepting and authenticating step, the encryption performed in said filter implementing step, and the decryption performed in said filter implementing step.

21.   The method of Claim 20 wherein the cryptographic processor is a trusted platform module.

22.   The method of Claim 17 wherein the accepting and authenticating step is performed independent of user login identity information.

23.   The method of Claim 17 wherein the personality selection of said accepting and authenticating step is performed as a function of user login identity information.

24.   The method of Claim 17 wherein the tagging in said tagging step is one which appends characters to the data file name.

25.   Apparatus comprising:

    a personality switch which accepts personality selection input provided by a user and which indicates a selected personality based on the provided input in a computer having a storage device capable of storing various data files;

    a tagger which is coupled to said personality switch and which tags files to be stored in the storage device by modifying the names of the files according to the selected personality as indicated by said personality switch; and

    a filter which is coupled to said personality switch and which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality by restoring each file name to the name existing prior to the modification performed by said tagger and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality.

26.   Apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the personality switch accepts personality selection input independent of user login identity information.

27.   Apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the personality switch accepts personality selection input as a function of user login identity information.

28.   Apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the data file name modification is one which appends characters to the data file name.

29.   Apparatus comprising:

        a personality selector which accepts and authenticates input provided by a user selected from a plurality of personality selection inputs and which indicates a selected personality based on the provided input to a computer having a storage device capable of storing various data files;

        a tagger which is coupled to said personality selector and which tags files to be stored in the storage device by modifying the names of the files according to the selected personality as indicated by said personality selector and which stores the contents of the tagged files in an encrypted format on the storage device; and

        a filter which is coupled to said personality selector and which (a) passes files tagged according to the selected personality by restoring each file name to the name existing prior to the modification performed by said tagger and by decrypting the contents of tagged files which have been stored in an encrypted format on the storage device and which (b) blocks files not tagged according to the selected personality;

        wherein, when at least one application is running in the computer, a change in the selected personality based on newly provided input does not require termination of the at least one application.

30. Apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said filter further passes files tagged as universal irrespective of the selected personality, thereby overriding the blocking (b) of files not tagged according to the selected personality.

31. Apparatus of Claim 30 wherein said filter additionally passes all files when the selected personality is a universal personality, thereby further overriding the blocking (b) of files not tagged according to the selected personality.

32. Apparatus of Claim 29 wherein a cryptographic processor is utilized in a selected one of the authentication performed by said personality selector, the encryption performed by said filter, and the decryption performed by said filter.

33. Apparatus of Claim 32 wherein the cryptographic processor is a trusted platform module.

34. Apparatus of Claim 29 wherein the personality switch accepts personality selection input independent of user login identity information.

35. Apparatus of Claim 29 wherein the personality switch accepts personality selection input as a function of user login identity information.